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BEFORE THE
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

Viola, Idaho 83872
Post Office State Zip Code

Docket No: A2012-71

Viola Idaho Postal Patrons. Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Viola post office. The Final Determination was posted (date) 10/14/2011

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. 404 (d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional pages(s) to this form.

Our Reasons:

Economic Savings? There are many problems with closing the Viola Post office as it serves a large rural population. Who ever was responsible for determining the final Determination had only one thing in mind Close the post Office to save dollars: **Federal law prohibits the Postal Service from permanently closing a small post office just to save dollars. (Under Title 39, United States Code 404(b) any decision to close or consolidate a post office must be based on certain criteria NOT DOLLARS).**

We have spent many hours going over the "Concerns of the Patrons and the Response of the Postal Service to the patrons of the rural district". Very few of the responses gave any improvement to the service we have now. In fact the service would be minimized, at a greater cost.

Those that were making the determination to close the Viola Post Office have no understanding of rural living. The rural carrier travels 90 miles per day. Driving time

alone, on good days, on gravel roads is three hours. Mileage cost is about \$46.00 per day or \$280.00 per month. Wages for carrier \$50,000.00 plus benefits. This route is maxed out now. If the post office is closed it will mean adding another carrier. No dollar savings there.

No one ever came to personally monitor this post office, we as patrons see first hand how busy this small post office is during the few hours it is now opened. The employee in the post office was never monitored by the form sent to her as to any other duties performed except for the customers she served. We don't have any idea where they come up with only 10 minutes. It takes close to an hour every day for the opening and closing duties at this post office alone. The only report they took was in the two week period in June, the slowest month of the year for the post office.

The Postal Service just doesn't understand the Rural Community, many patrons have their prescription drugs sent here to a PO box and patrons on the rural route pick them up at the post office rather than having them left in the unattended mail boxes.

There are many small businesses in the town. One trucking company maintains a fleet of 9 trucks. The other two companys maintain 2 to 3 trucks. There is a small electric business right across the street from the post office. There is a building contractor right next door to the post office. How can the Postal Service claim that the area is not growing when 10 years ago only a couple of these business' were present in addition to a large number of new homes in the area?

The final page was the estimated dollars savings. The figures used were not accurate and were misleading. The \$7,713.00 claimed as fringe benefits saved, are false as this post mistress receives no benefits.

As patrons of this rural district we found this whole Final Determination report to close the Viola post office to be very misleading, as it is not factual with much misinformation. It would require many more pages to correct the misinformation. We can do this but time to return this to Washington DC is short. To arrive there by Dec. 20, we need to have this in the mail on Dec. 14, and we only received it in the mail late in the day on December 12, 2011.

Merry Christmas and the best in the New Year.

**Concerned Viola Post Office Patrons
Box 100
Viola, Idaho 83872**